



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Corps of Engineers and Department of Health Host Event in Observation of World Water Monitoring Day 2004

(HONOLULU, October 13, 2004 – NR 05-01) – On October 15, five teachers and 76 Honolulu-area students in grades 7-12 will create a water quality snapshot of the Ala Wai Watershed as they participate in World Water Monitoring Day 2004.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with the State of Hawaii Department of Health Clean Water Branch, are hosting this event in support of World Water Monitoring Day along with science teachers Carrie Bashaw from Kaimuki High School, Debbie Jensen from Washington Middle School, Karen Langdon and Katie King from Jarrett Middle School, Nakana Wong from Kula Kaiapuni O Anuenue School, and local partners from the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services, Hale Koa Hotel, Hawaii Nature Center, Natural Resources Conservation Service, State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resource Division of Aquatic Resources, University of Hawaii Department of Oceanography and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The four monitoring sites in the Ala Wai Watershed include the Ala Wai Canal, Manoa Stream, Makiki Stream and Palolo Stream. The three streams flow directly into the canal. Field investigations and sampling begin at 9 a.m. at Manoa District Park.

Students will learn more about ecosystem restoration, flood reduction, and water quality monitoring that includes data collection and problem-solving. Teachers were provided the Ala Wai Watershed Analysis to identify historic conditions and current watershed issues to study in the classroom. Additionally, they received a manual on water quality monitoring, "Hawaii's Native & Exotic Freshwater Animals" by Mike Yamamoto and Annette Tagawa, information on stream flow from USGS, data sets from the University of Hawaii Oceanography Department, lesson plans on soils from NRCS, storm water management from the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services and designing a reservoir from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Students participating in the hands-on field investigation will collect and measure water samples using both field instruments and educational monitoring kits to determine how the parameters of pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity and conductivity relate to each other. Data collected by the students will be uploaded into usable global databases at <http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/>.

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2-2-2 WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY

In addition, students will rotate through various stations providing information on ecosystem restoration, flood reduction, stream flow measurements, fish identification and ecology, resources assessment, storm water management, landscaping and conservation using native and drought proof plants and the ahupua`a concept.

For the problem-solving component, students and teachers will team up to devise actions to improve and restore the Ala Wai Watershed. This component links what they study in school to how they live.

The following event authorities are participating in the event:

- Derek Chow, Ala Wai Canal Project, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu Engineer District
- Michael Wong, Civil Works Technical Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu Engineer District
- Iwalani Sato, Coordinator, Pacific Regional Visitor Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu Engineer District
- Randall Wakumoto, City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services
- Watson Okubo, Scott Murakawa and others, State of Hawaii Department of Health Clean Water Branch
- Mike Yamamoto, Annette Tagawa, State of Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources
- Eric DeCarlo, University of Hawaii Oceanography Department
- Ramsay Taum, Hawaii Nature Center
- Heidi Bornhorst, Hale Koa Hotel
- Barry Hill, U.S. Geological Survey
- Hudson Minshew, Katina Henderson, NRCS

World Water Monitoring Day was initiated by America's Clean Water Foundation (ACWF) in 2002 as a significant part of the events held in observance of the 30th anniversary of the United States Clean Water Act (1972). It serves as a global educational platform for watershed leaders, educators and trained volunteers to help those with little or no experience better understand how the actions of individuals in a watershed can impact many others. According to ACWF, last year more than 5,275 monitoring sites were registered across the country as citizens, volunteer monitors and government officials joined together as they followed through with testing on over 75% of the sites initially registered.

To cover this story, RSVP with Honolulu Engineer District Public Affairs by calling Dino Buchanan at (808) 438-9862 or cell (808) 393-4207.

Media should provide:

- Name of news organization.
- Names of journalists and photographers attending.